2:Musil S-4, 5 (no date) 1928 MD4 Rwala MD4

to powder, or strung on long threads, or scooped by hand into leather bags. The locusts taste like the tails of crayfish. They are eaten either without any preparation, *neǧǧân*, or food is prepared from them as from wheat.

In addition to bread, *'eǰš*, and locusts the Rwala eat the following:

'aṣîde, a gruel made of milk and some flour,

beṭîle, a paste made from dates and flour,

basîse, a thin paste for young children, made of grape honey (*debs*) and wheat flour,

madrûse, a thin paste made of dates, boiled wheat, and butter,

maṭbûḫa, dates boiled in butter,

ḫmeǰ'a, bread boiled in milk and covered with camel's suet.

Burrul, husked wheat and rice, are very seldom found with the common Rwala.

The Rwala buy salt in the settlements of the Sirḥân depression. It is obtained in especially large quantities in the environs of Čâf and Eṭra. The settlers run the salt water into shallow pools, collect, *jezabberûn*, the salt left after evaporation into baskets made of palm fibers, *zebîl*, and shake it out in heaps, *ḫawâṣel*. They measure it like corn and sell it. A single camel load (about 150 kilograms) costs a quarter or half a *meǧîdijje*, according to quality, in addition to the tax for the chief. The best varieties of salt are those called *'aẓîẓ* and *eṭrâwi*. Varieties of an inferior quality are known as *sabḫâwi*, which is obtained from the dried-up swamps, and *ṭḥejni*, or ground rock salt, of which there is an abundance in several regions.

For the preparation of food women require water, which they fetch themselves if a well is near, but which is brought by the herdsmen from wells at a great distance. Water is never wasted, and the Rwala look after it carefully, especially when they are on the march. On war expeditions or during raids the commander sees that each one obtains an equal amount of water. At sunset he picks up a pebble, places it in a wooden *ǯedaḥ*, and pours water on it until it is immersed. This is each man's share, *meḳṣâd az-zelema*. If hard pressed the Rwala kill the fattest camel, cut out the paunch, *čarš*, place it on a cloak, and squeeze the liquid from it into a leather bag, allowing it to cool and settle. They either drink it or, if it is too thick, they suck it into their throats through